

Rec director facing charges

Spouse says incident was a 'personal matter,' calls charges unfair

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Town Recreation Director Gordon Cushing is facing gun possession charges in Plymouth District Court.

Police applied for charges against Cushing on Sept. 9, after finding several firearms at his Tremont Street home during the service of a temporary restraining order Sept. 1, according to Lt. Lewis Chubb of the Duxbury police.



Cushing

Kingston police found seven rifles and a sawed-off shotgun in the home, Chubb said. Duxbury police were not available to serve the order because they were attending the funeral of Officer Melvin Dyer.

Chubb said Cushing is set to be charged with seven counts of improper storage of a firearm, seven counts of possession of a firearm without an FID or firearm identification card, and one count of possession of an illegally modified

shotgun, which is a felony.

A person with knowledge of the shotgun described it as a "100 year-old rusted shotgun" that "hadn't been fired in at least twenty years."

Since Cushing has not been arraigned yet, the charges are subject to change. He is due to be arraigned in court Nov. 25.

In addition to serving as the town's recreation director, Cushing is also a basketball coach at the high school.

Cushing declined to comment at length, referring calls to his attorney, Jeffrey Beckerman, who did not return calls seeking comment. Cushing did say that he did have an FID card, and brought it to the police station after getting a phone call asking him to surrender it, but was then told it had expired.

The rules for FID cards have changed in recent years. Chubb said he could not comment on Cushing's specific situation. However, according to the Massachusetts Gun Control Act of 1998, FID cards for rifles and shotguns used to be permanent. (Handgun licenses,

or a license to carry, are separate permits and always had an expiration date.) With the passage of the law, the old permanent licenses were phased out and new cards were issued, which are only good for four years.

Cushing also said the temporary restraining order was overturned on Sept. 2 when he and his wife went into court.

Cushing's wife, Kristine, said she sent a "letter of character" to Town Manager Richard MacDonald and Police Chief Mark DeLuca. She said she did not mean for the situation to get out of hand or for Cushing to face any criminal charges.

"If I could take back what I did I would," she said. "Gordon is not a bad person, he is not a criminal."

She said the situation was a "personal matter between two people getting divorced after 20 years of marriage." "I don't think this is fair," she said. "I'm scared for what might happen to him."

Town officials declined to comment on the matter.